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The Honorable David G. Trager United States District Judge United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York 225 Cadman Plaza East

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Dear Judge Trager:

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We represent defendant Hebei Welcome Pharmaceutical Company Ltd., and write this letter on behalf of defendants Jiangsu Jiangshan Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Hebei Welcome Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Weisheng Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Shijiazhuang Pharmaceutical (USA) Inc., and China Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (hereinafter, the "Moving defendants").

In re Vitamin C Antitrust Litigation (Master File 06-MD-1638 [DGT][JO])

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In light of the developments enumerated below, the Moving Defendants now agree to withdraw their Motion to Compel Arbitration [Docket Reference No. 97] with respect to the claims brought by plaintiff The Ranis Company, Inc. ("Ranis").

## North & South America

Ranis itself has not directly purchased any Vitamin C, and instead claims the right to represent an alleged class of direct purchasers based on a purported assignment of claims by a direct purchaser. At the time the subject motion to compel arbitration was filed, Ranis had only recently disclosed the identity of its assignor, thereby revealing for the first time that its assignor had purchased pursuant to a contract with defendant Northeast Pharmaceutical Group Co. Ltd. ("NEPG") mandating arbitration of all claims. NEPG promptly moved to compel arbitration pursuant to those contracts; and Moving Defendants filed the subject companion motion to compel based upon the interrelationship of those contracts and claims to the unitary conspiracy alleged by Ranis against all defendants.

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Moving Defendants now agree to withdraw their motion in light of subsequent developments. Specifically:

- (1) After reviewing all defendants' moving and reply papers (including expert reports), Ranis on January 3 voluntarily dismissed its claims as to defendant NEPG [Docket No.118]; and
- (2) After being directed by this Court to submit supplemental briefing on the motion filed by Moving Defendants [Docket No. 119], Ranis has now filed an Amended Complaint [Docket No. 124] eliminating any claims for damages in respect of any contract containing an arbitration clause, and has redefined its alleged class as "all

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persons or entities, or assignees of such persons or entities, who directly purchased vitamin C for delivery in the United States, other than pursuant to a contract containing an arbitration clause, from any of defendants or their co-conspirators, other than [NEPG], from December 1, 2001 to the present." (Emphasis added).

Ranis' action in amending its claims effectively concedes the merits of Moving Defendants' position as set forth in their motion and largely grants them the relief to which they would be entitled in any event. Accordingly, Moving Defendants respectfully notify this Court that they wish to withdraw their motion, subject only to reserving their right to pursue of costs, including attorneys fees at some future date.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. Critchlow

Principal

CHC/tn

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